



Dear Chief Academic Officer,

Over the past few months, the Missouri Department of Higher Education has worked with representatives from institutions across Missouri in the formation of a working group to study assessment practices in Missouri and the country, and provide relevant policy recommendations to Commissioner Stein and the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The Learning Assessment in Missouri Postsecondary Education (LAMP) advisory Council builds upon the important work of the Curriculum Alignment Initiative (CAI), the Missouri Assessment Consortium (MAC), Missouri Developmental Education Consortium, and Measuring Value-Added Student Learning (MVASL) to respond to existing legislation and the improvement of student learning across the state. The advisory council values building consensus, the inclusion of all institutions regardless of sector, and prioritizing assessment for student learning.

Charged with studying current assessment practices of Missouri institutions, the LAMP Assessment Practices group has worked diligently to develop a process maximizing institutional participation and the unique mission and context of each campus.

The attached survey instrument represents a first step in collecting valuable information regarding the culture of assessment at your institution. It allows assessment practitioners and administration to reflect upon the infrastructure and general role of assessment practices, as well as, the level of participation and investment by individuals in the academic community. Additionally, you are encouraged to provide opinions and policy recommendations related to a breadth of relevant assessment issues.

The members of the committee understand that institutions are barraged with surveys and requests for information all the time. It is our sincere hope that you will take the time to provide the detailed information necessary for the LAMP subcommittee to provide input and feedback for the larger work of the LAMP advisory council. Please return the survey by email to [jeffrey.smith@dhe.mo.gov](mailto:jeffrey.smith@dhe.mo.gov) by February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 660-248-6211 or by e-mail at [rgulstad@centralmethodist.edu](mailto:rgulstad@centralmethodist.edu).

Thank you for your participation and dedication to the improvement of higher education in Missouri.

Sincerely,

Rita Gulstad  
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the University  
Central Methodist University

You may find more information about the LAMP initiative at:

LAMP Website: <http://dhe.mo.gov/lamp.shtml>

LAMP December Newsletter: <http://dhe.mo.gov/files/lampnewsletterdecember2008.pdf>

LAMP Charge: <http://dhe.mo.gov/lampcharge.shtml>

LAMP Inclusion Values: <http://dhe.mo.gov/lampvalues.shtml>

LAMP Policy Guidance: <http://dhe.mo.gov/lamppolicyguidance.shtml>